

REMARKS

In the aforementioned claim amendments, claims 1, 10 are amended, claim 2 is canceled, and claims 15-19 are added. Now pending in the application are claims 1 and 3-19, of which claims 1, 10 and 15 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

Patentable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, Claims 2 and 4-14 are indicated to recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response to the Office Action, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the patentable subject matter recited in claim 2. Claim 2 is canceled. Applicants also rewrite claim 10 in independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1. In light of the claim amendments, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 4-14 are in condition for allowance.

Drawings

Figures 5 and 6 are objected because of minor informalities. In response to the objection, Applicants amend Figures 5 and 6 to designate by a legend such as --Prior Art--. In light of the amendments to the drawings, Applicants submit that drawings are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kenji(Japanese Pub. No. 2000-223144). As set forth above, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the patentable subject matter recited in claim 2. In light of the claim amendments, Applicants submit that the Examiner's rejections of claims 1 and 3 are moot, and claims 1 and 3 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Applicants add new claims 15-19 to clarify the scope of the claimed invention. Claim 15 recites similar limitations to claim 1 except that the water collection portion is formed by a sloped portion. Claims 16-19, which depend on claim 15, correspond to claims 4, 3 plus 5, 7 and 8, respectively. Applicants submit that claims 15-19 are also patentably distinct over the cited prior art reference and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above arguments, applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicants believe no fee is due with this statement. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 12-0080, under Order No. SIW-026 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: **August 16, 2004**

Respectfully submitted,

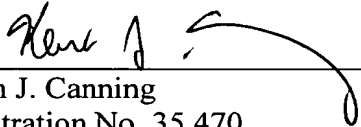
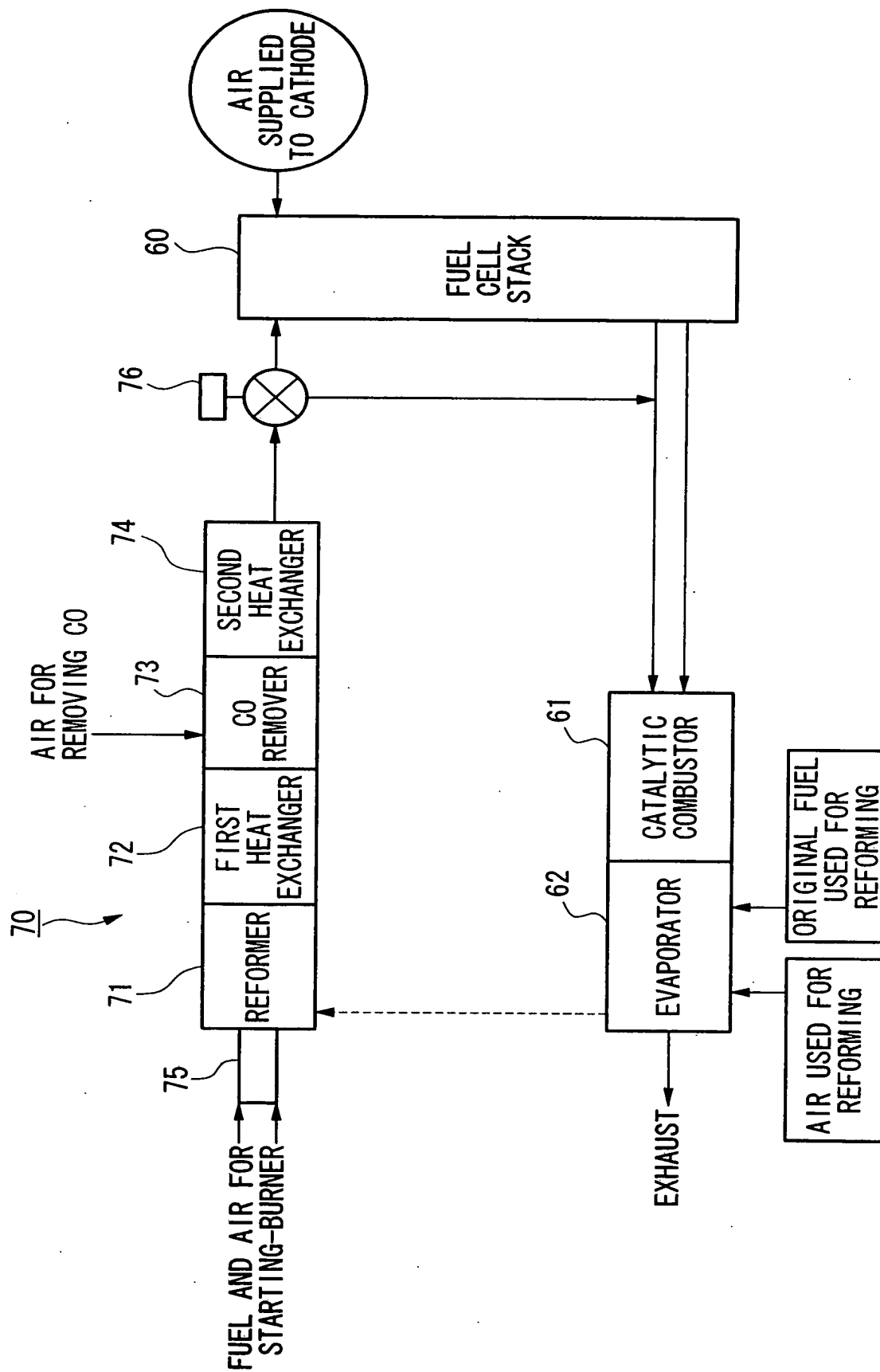
By 
Kevin J. Canning
Registration No. 35,470
for Anthony A. Laurentano
Registration No. 38,220
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP
28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
(617) 227-7400
(617) 742-4214 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants

FIG. 5
(Prior Art)



PIPE SCIENCE
AUG 16 2004
PAT. & TRADEMARK OFFICE

FIG. 6
(Prior Art)

